

Airline Partnerships and Code-Shares

Airlines partner with other airlines for marketing purposes and to offer options to the traveler. Partnerships include code-sharing of flights, which allows airlines to promote and sell seats on the partner's flights while using their own alpha-code.

Airline flights are identified by an airline's alpha-code (designator) plus 3 to 4 numbers, such as CO230 or UA032, or AA0031. Flights may be operated either by the U.S. carrier whose alpha-code appears on schedules and tickets or by another airline, which may be a foreign carrier, that has a code-share relationship with afore mentioned airline.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What exactly is a code share?

A. A code share is an agreement between airlines that allows the sell of seats by the partner airline on the other airline's flight just as if the flight were its own. Agreements vary in scope and may be limited to one flight, or to include flights between certain cities.

Q. What are the benefits from code sharing?

A. For **air carriers**, code-sharing provides a cost-efficient way to enter new markets and expand their routes by using the existing facilities and scheduled operations of the partner airline(s).

For **consumers**, code-sharing provides options in air service and fares. Better air service particularly for traffic moving to or from cities beyond major gateways. Code-sharing encourages competition between carriers which may provide lower air fares.

Q. How will I know if my flight is a code share?

A. The flight availability display in DTS will alert you if your flight is a code share. In addition, this information will be printed on the itinerary that you receive from your Commercial Travel Office (CTO).

Q. Which airline should I check in with on the day of departure?

A. You should check in with the airline that is actually operating your flight and not necessarily the airline that appears on the ticket. For example a ticket may be issued on United (UA9817) from Chicago to Frankfurt, but the flight is operated by Lufthansa (LH). The check-in process is done at the Lufthansa ticket counter. This information will be reflected in the itinerary that you receive from your CTO.

Q. If my luggage is lost or damaged, which airline is responsible; the ticketing carrier or the operating carrier?

A. Industry practice states that the final carrier in the traveler's itinerary is responsible to handle any delayed or damaged luggage claims. In the example above, the delivering (final) carrier was LH as the operating carrier.

Q. If I have to make a change to my reservation, should I call the ticketing carrier or the operating carrier?

A. Once travel has begun; you should call your CTO for any changes, by using the toll-free number that appears in the itinerary from the CTO.

Q. Are code share flights in compliance with the Fly America Act?

A. If the flight designation (our example above, UA) is that of a US carrier, even if the flight is operated by a foreign flag carrier; that flight is in compliance with the Fly America Act.